medium scale manufacturers to set up their processing/refining units, based upon natural gas, with a view to fully utilise these resources;

(b) if so, what is the rate being charged for the allotment of natural gas;

(c) whether Government have set up some consulting agency to give necessary consultation regarding setting up of these units or some other private consulting agencies are providing these services; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The consumer price of natural gas in the North Eastern States is Rs. 1000 per thousand cu. mtrs. In the rest of the country the price is Rs. 1850 per thousand cu. mtrs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Petrol Pumps/SKO Dealership and LPG Distributorship on Compassionate Grounds

8070. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the names and addresses of allottees of petrol pumps/ SKO dealerships and LPG distributorship on compassionate grounds are kept confidential;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the names and addresses of beneficiaries who were allotted dealerships mentioned in part (a) above, during the last three years;

(d) whether Government are deciding to liberalise the marketing of HSD and lubricants: and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Time and efforts involved in collection and compilation of requisite data will not be commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved. The number of allottees of retail outlets, SKO-LDO dealerships and LPG distributorships on compassionate grounds ruin during the last three years is as follows:

	RO	LPG	SKO-LDO
1992-93	19	64	30
1993-94	55	57	11
1994-95	78	61	16

(d) and (e) The import of lubricants and lube oil base stocks has been decanalised and private parties including foreign oil companies are free to import and market these products. There is no proposal at present to deregulate retail marketing of MS and HSD.